

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-80

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJ: NPG STUDY ON COMMUNICATING NATO'S INTENTIONS TO USE
NUCLEAR WEAPONS

REF: NPG (STAFF GROUP) WP(74)7

BEGIN SUMMARY: AT MEETINGS ON JUNE 27 AND JULY 1, NPG STAFF
GROUP (SG) DISCUSSED FIRST DRAFT OF STUDY OF BEGIN QUOTE:
COMMUNICATING NATO'S INTENTION TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS END QUOTE
PREPARED BY IS, INCLUDING POSSIBLE FORMS WHICH THE STUDY COULD TAKE,
I.E., PERMREPS STUDY, SG STUDY, OR IS STUDY. CANADIAN REP RAISED
QUESTION OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US-USSR AGREEMENT FOR
PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAS AND COMMUNICATING NATO'S INTENTIONS
TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT MEETINGS ON JUNE 27 AND JULY 1, NPG STAFF GROUP (SG)
HAD INITIAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON FIRST DRAFT OF THE NPG STUDY
OF BEGIN QUOTE: COMMUNICATING NATO'S INTENTION TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS
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END QUOTE PREPARED BY THE IS (REF - POUCHED TO STATE AND DEF). SG
DISCUSSED THREE POSSIBLE FORMS THAT THE STUDY COULD TAKE:

(1) PERMREPS STUDY; (2) STAFF GROUP STUDY ACCOMPANIED BY
A PERMREPS REPORT; OR (3) AN IS STUDY. MOST SG REPS INDICATED

PREFERENCE FOR SECOND ALTERNATIVE. SG AGREED TO OBTAIN GUIDANCE FROM CAPITALS BY JULY 8 ON THE FORM THE STUDY SHOULD TAKE. COMMENT: MISSION BELIEVES SECOND ALTERNATIVE IS PREFERABLE. BASIC OBJECTIVE IS TO HAVE A PRODUCT THAT WILL PROVIDE A BASIS FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION AT FALL NPG MEETING. FIRST ALTERNATIVE, I.E., PERMREPS STUDY, WOULD CARRY IMPLICATION OF APPROVAL BY NATIONAL AUTHORITIES, WHICH WE BELIEVE WOULD BE PREMATURE PRIOR TO MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION AND IMPINGE ON US FLEXIBILITY IN DEALING WITH THIS SUBJECT IN NATO. CONVERSELY, THIRD ALTERNATIVE, I. E., IS STUDY, WOULD LESSEN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO INFLUENCE CONTENT OF STUDY. THE SECOND ALTERNATIVE WOULD PROVIDE BETTER OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO INFLUENCE CONTENT OF STUDY, BUT IT WOULD CONTAIN A DISCLAIMER STATING THAT STUDY DID NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT VIEWS OF COUNTRIES (SUCH AS PROVIDED IN PARA 3 OF REF). IN ACCORDANCE WITH USUAL NPG PRACTICE, COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO APPROVE COMMENTS ON THE STUDY IN THE PERMREPS REPORT TO MINISTERS WHICH WOULD ACCOMPANY IT. END COMMENT. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE PRIOR TO JULY 8 ON THE FORM THE STUDY SHOULD TAKE.

2. CANADIAN REP (BECKETT) RAISED QUESTION OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US-USSR AGREEMENT FOR PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR AND THE SUBJECT OF COMMUNICATING NATO'S INTENTIONS TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS, NOTING THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE US VIEWS DURING COURSE OF PREPARATION OF STUDY. ACTION REQUESTED: IN ACCORDANCE WITH US POSITION THAT THE US-USSR AGREEMENT RELATES TO THE PREVENTION OF WAR AND NOT THE CONDUCT OF WAR, MISSION BELIEVES THAT APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO QUESTION RAISED BY CANADIAN REP IS THAT THE US-USSR AGREEMENT DOES NOT HAVE ANY BEARING ON THE STUDY OF COMMUNICATION NATO'S INTENTIONS. REQUESTED GUIDANCE.

3. SG AGREED THAT DISCUSSION OF "ULTIMATUMS" CONTAINED IN FIRST DRAFT PREPARED BY IS WENT BEYOND SCOPE OF WHAT COULD BE USEFULLY ANALYZED IN THE STUDY. SG CHAIRMAN (SEIM) UNDERTOOK TO REVISE THE FIRST DRAFT TO USE THE DISCUSSION OF "MESSAGES OF EXPLANATION AND WARNING" IN PARAS 38-42 OF THE INITIAL USE GUIDELINES (DPC/D(69)58(REVISED)) AS THE FRAMEOWRK FOR ANALYSIS. RUMSFELD

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